



4

BRANIAC IS HERE! ACT ONE



ICON VS. HARDWARE



HUDLIN | CHILLS | ILHAN | COWAN | FLORES MONTAÑEZ
FLOYD | VON GRAWBADGER | SOTOMAYOR

13+
TEEN

WHO IS BRUCE WAYNE?

BATMAN

VOL. 2:
THE BAT-MAN OF GOTHAM

Written by
CHIP ZDARSKY

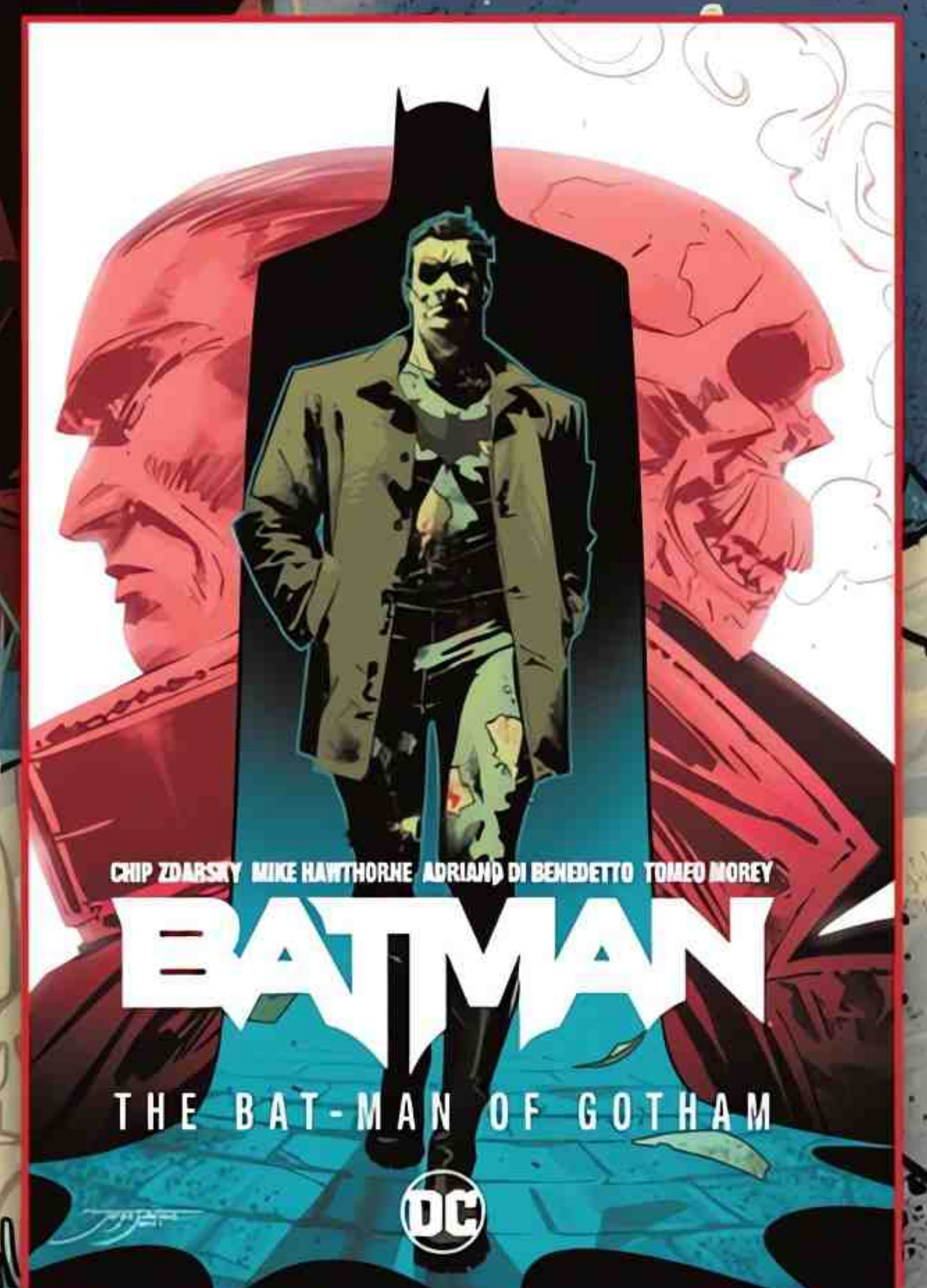
Art by
MIKE HAWTHORNE

Cover by
JORGE JIMENEZ

*"It's a huge and epic idea at work here,
and the creative team pulls it off" —AIPT*



AUGUST



DAKOTA CITY.
NOW.



I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND HOW YOU THOUGHT TRAVELING THROUGH TIME *WOULDN'T* BRING ABOUT NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES, HARDWARE.

YOU'RE *SUPPOSED* TO BE SMARTER THAN THAT...



LET'S
NOT GET INTO A
DISCUSSION ABOUT
INTELLIGENCE
HERE.



YOU CAN'T
EVEN FIGURE OUT
HOW TO GET
BACK TO YOUR
OWN PLANET!



E.T.-
LOOKING
#@\$ BOY.



CAN YOU
TWO PLEASE
STOP ARGUING AND
GROW UP?! THIS WON'T
END UNTIL HARDWARE
GOES BACK IN
TIME AND FIXES
EVERYTHING!

IT'S
THE ONLY WAY
TO SEAL THIS...
HOLE IN THE
UNIVERSE!

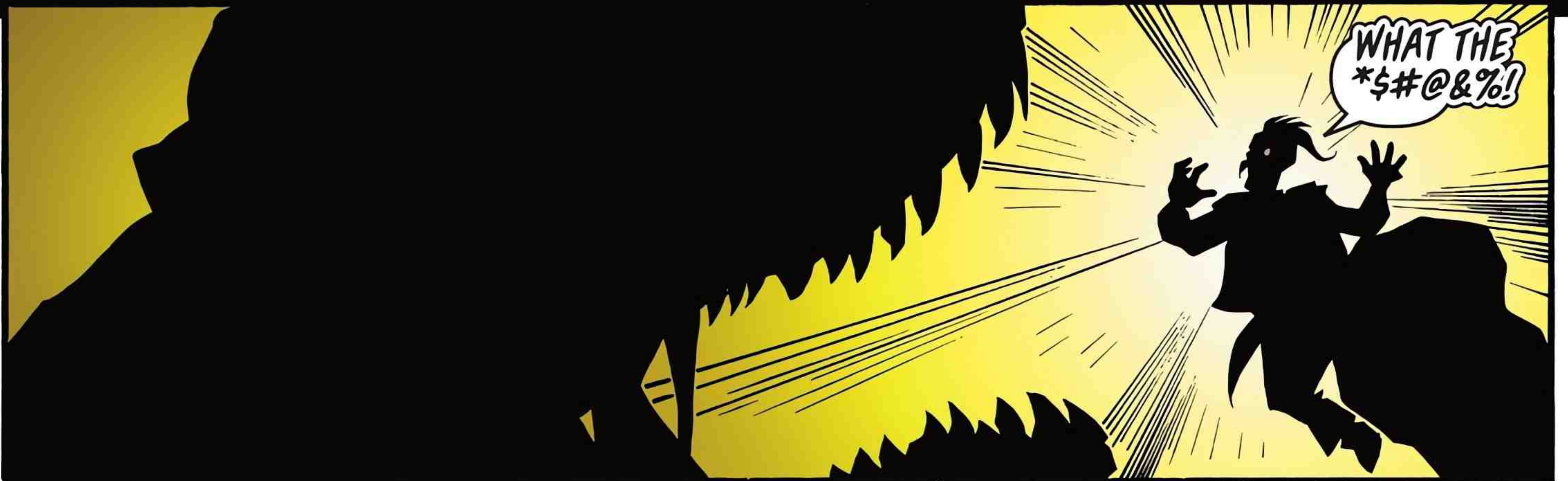


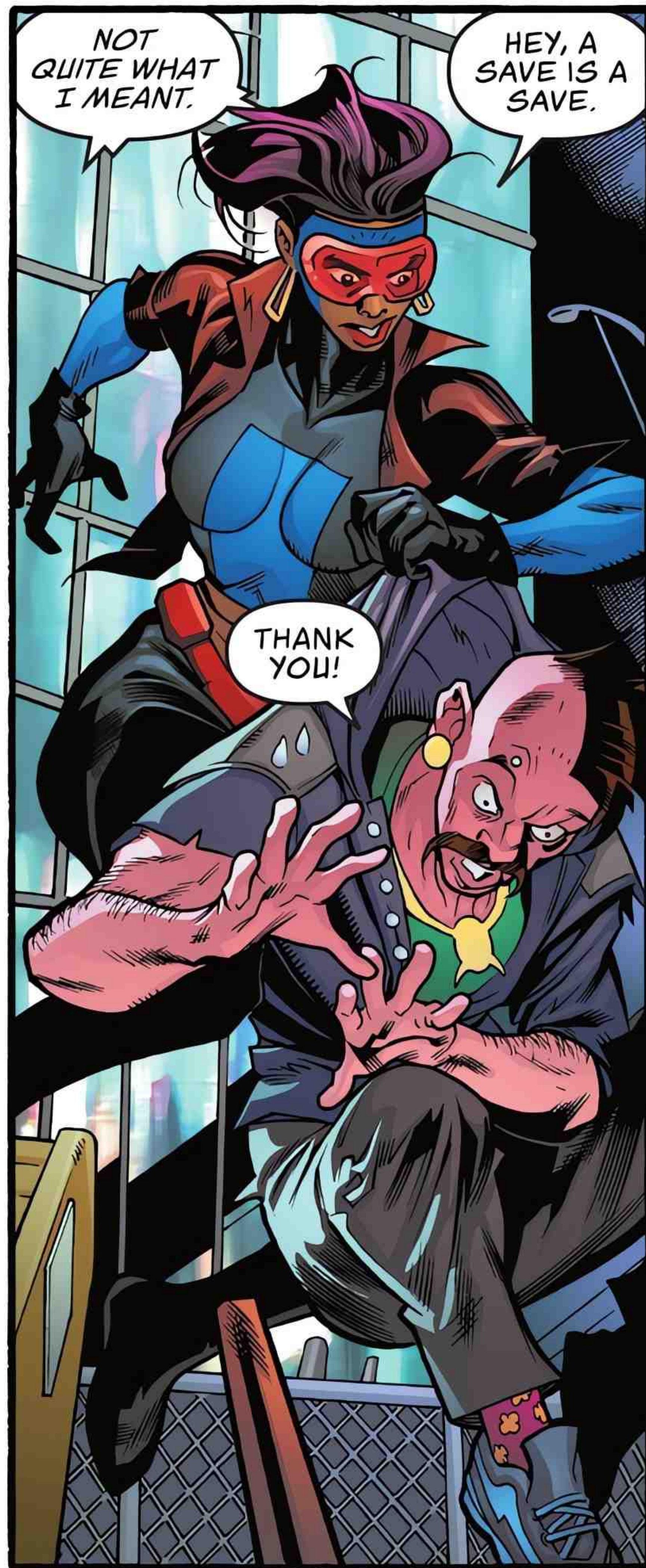
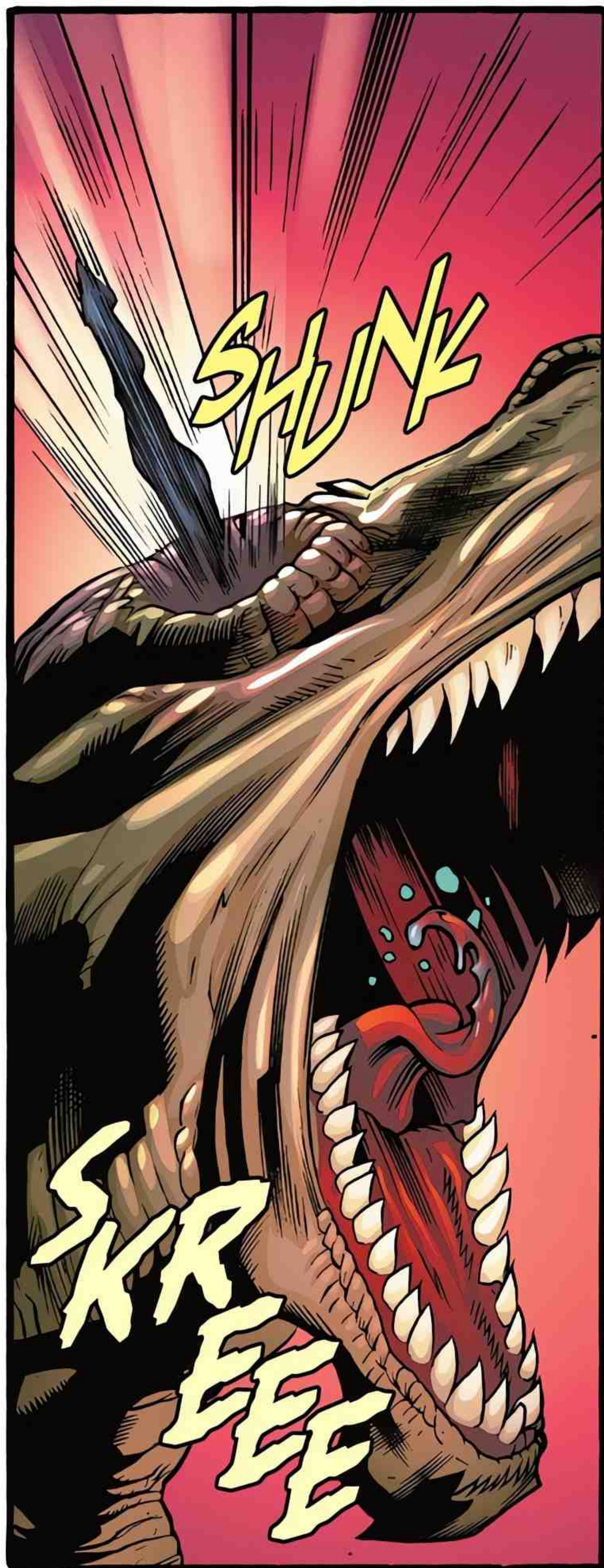
I ALREADY KNEW THAT.
I ONLY STAYED BECAUSE
I WAS CONCERNED Y'ALL
COULDN'T HANDLE THINGS
HERE WITHOUT ME.

YOU
ALL.

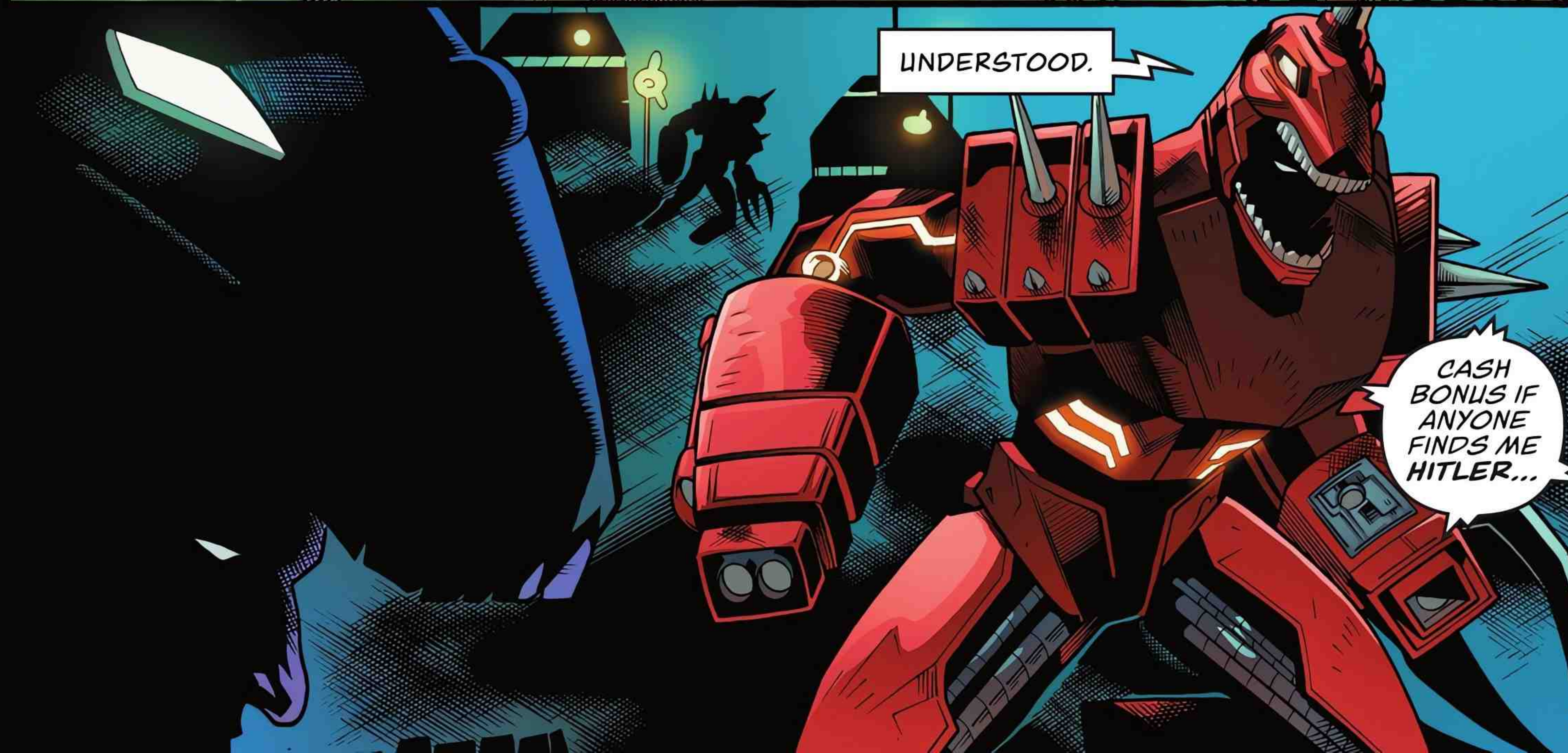
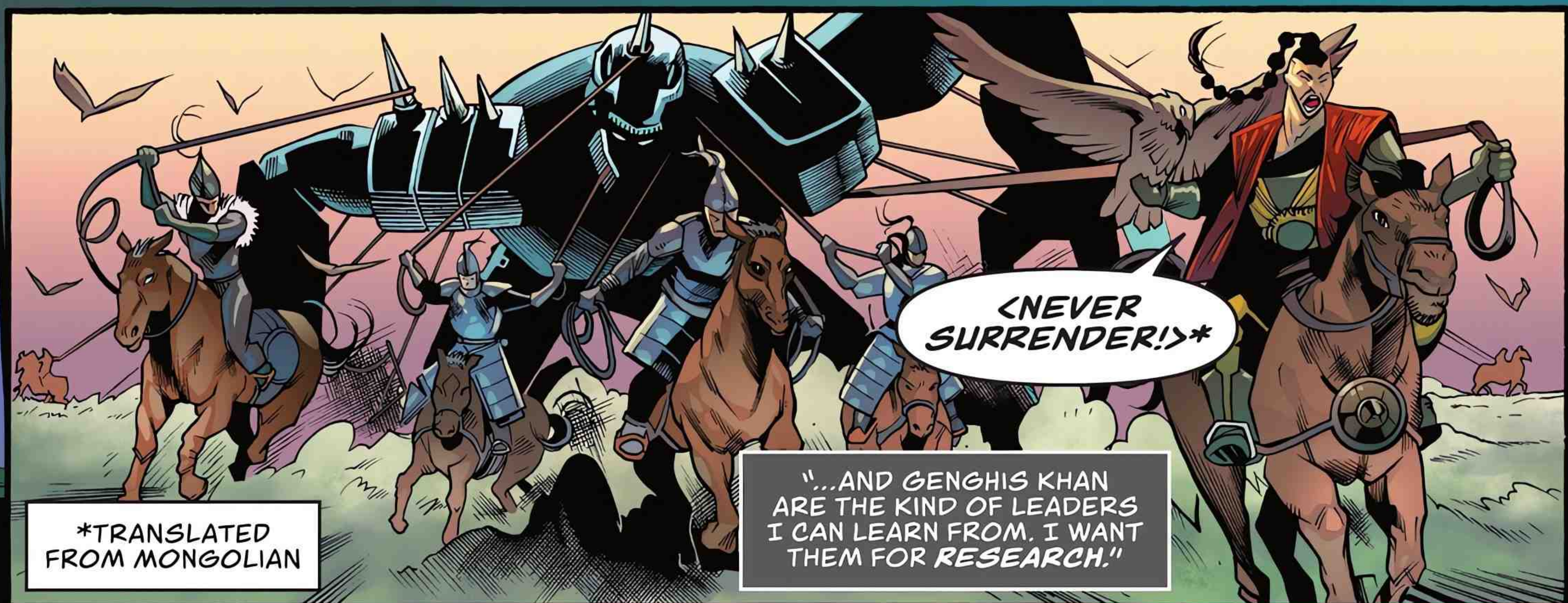
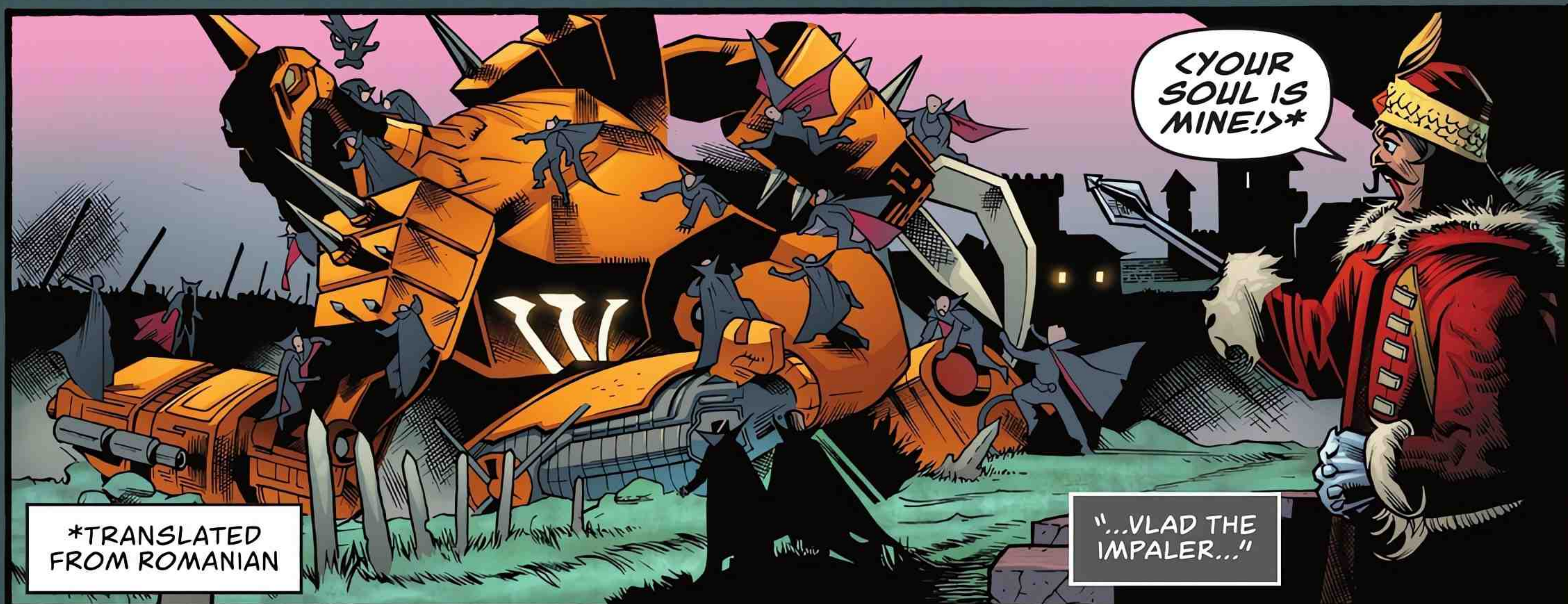
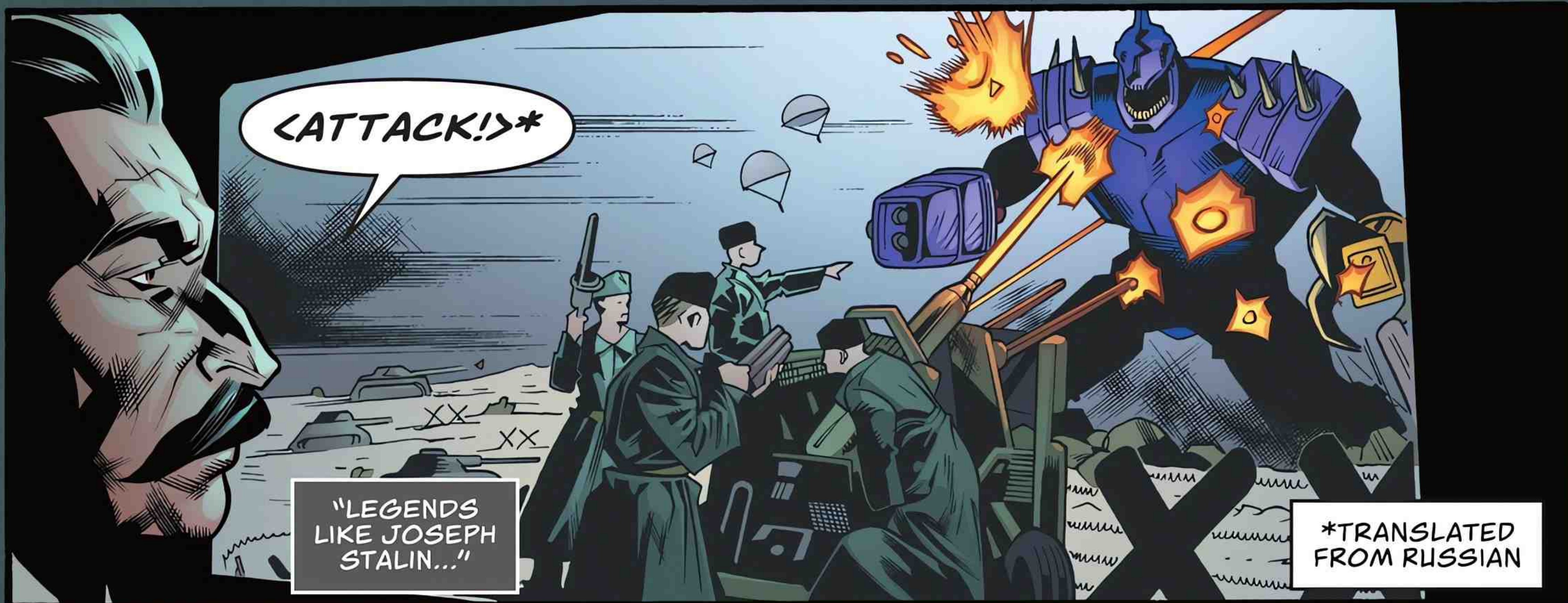
SHUT
UP.

YOU SEE HOW
MUCH ENERGY I'M
ABSORBING FROM
THESE BITES?! WE
CAN HANDLE IT!
THANK YOU!



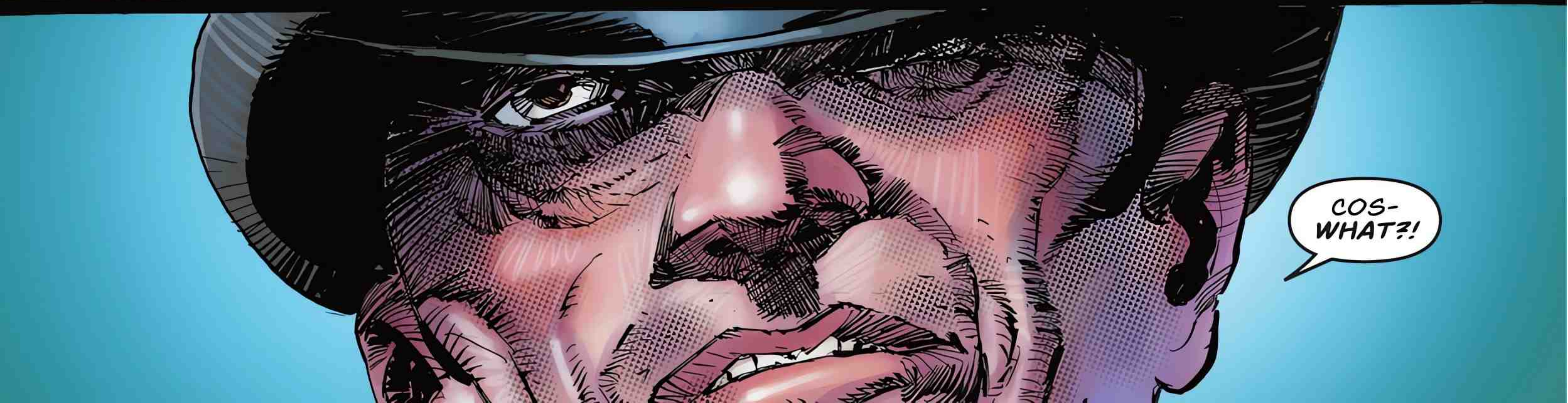








DAKOTA CITY SUBURBS.





EITHER WAY, WE WERE ENJOYING A VERY NICE BARBECUE. AND YOU COULDN'T BE MORE UNINVITED TO THE COOKOUT.

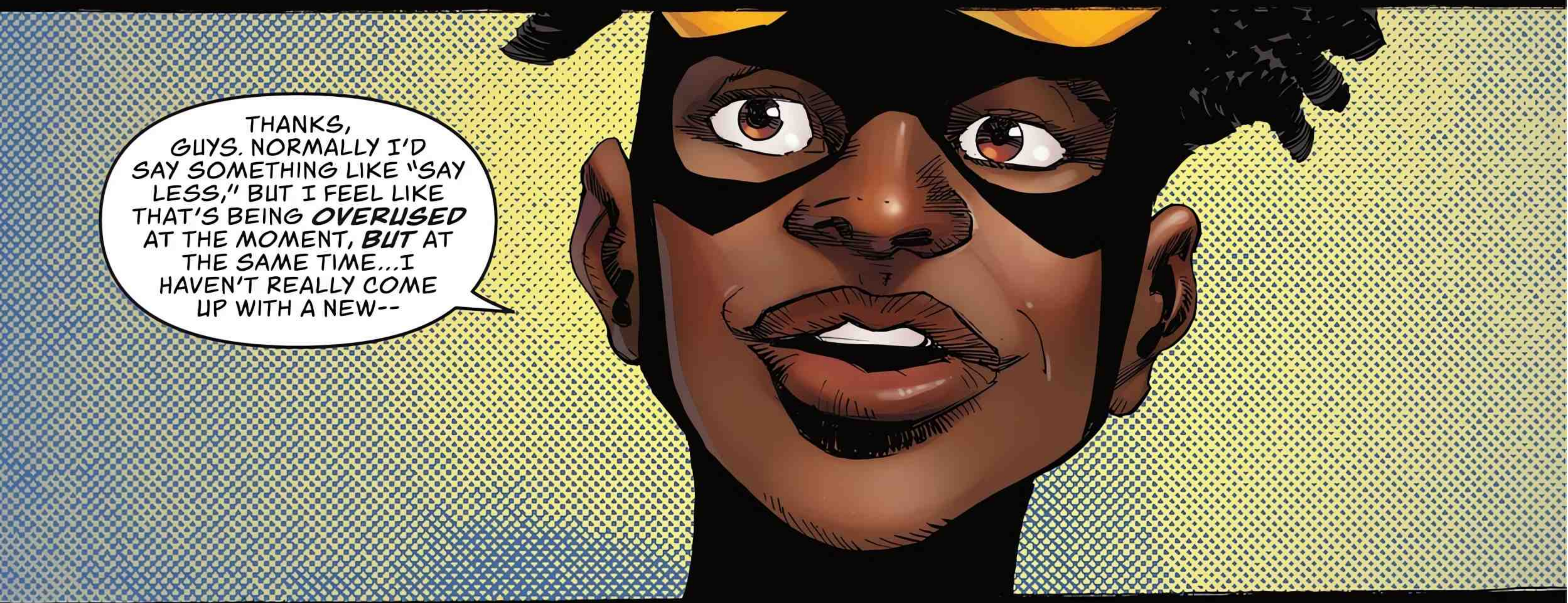
KNEEL OR DIE!



GET 'EM, SON!

LET'S GO!

TAKE HIM DOWN!



THANKS, GUYS. NORMALLY I'D SAY SOMETHING LIKE "SAY LESS," BUT I FEEL LIKE THAT'S BEING *OVERUSED* AT THE MOMENT, *BUT* AT THE SAME TIME...I HAVEN'T REALLY COME UP WITH A NEW--



JUST DO THE DARN THING, SON!

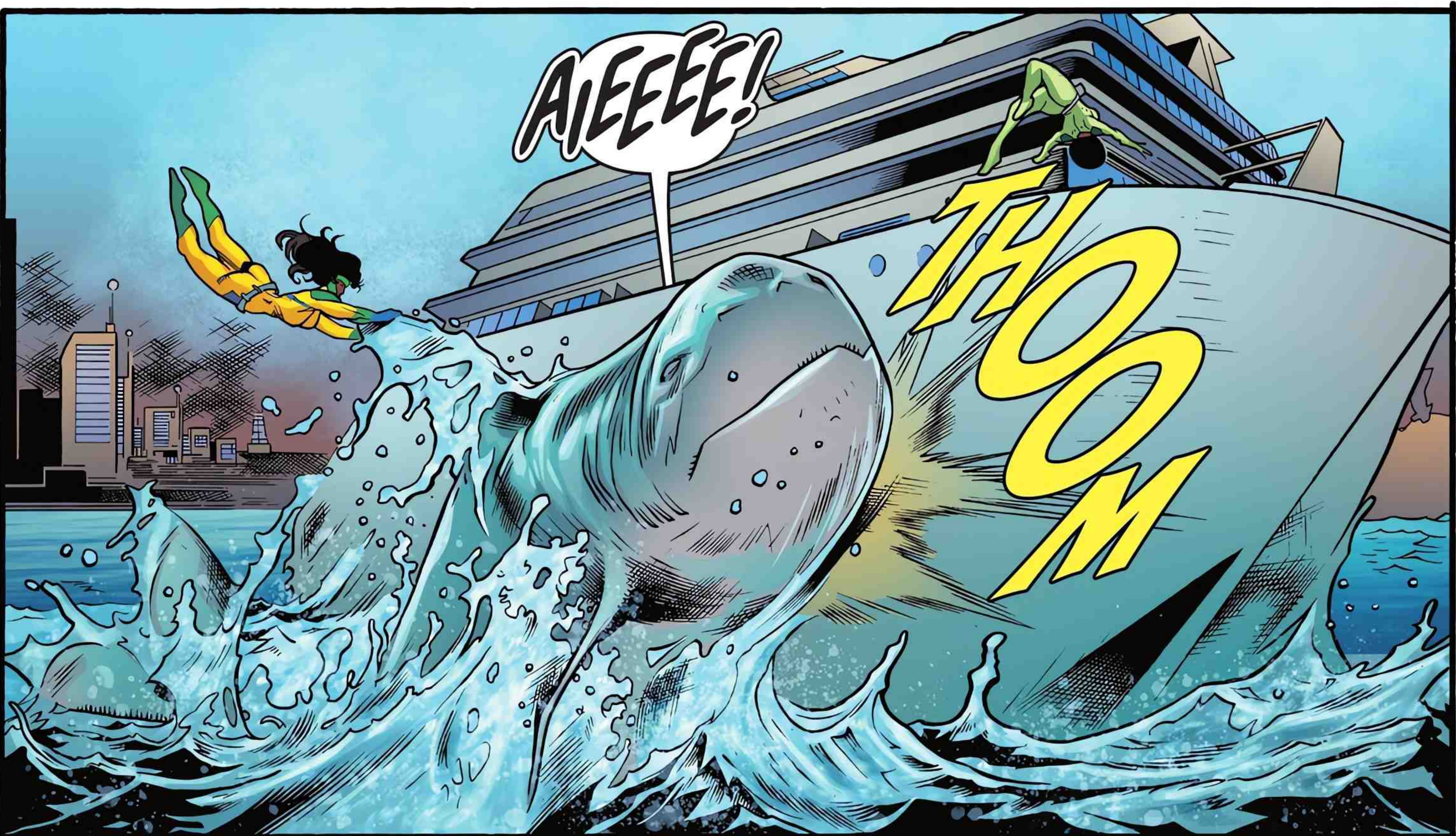
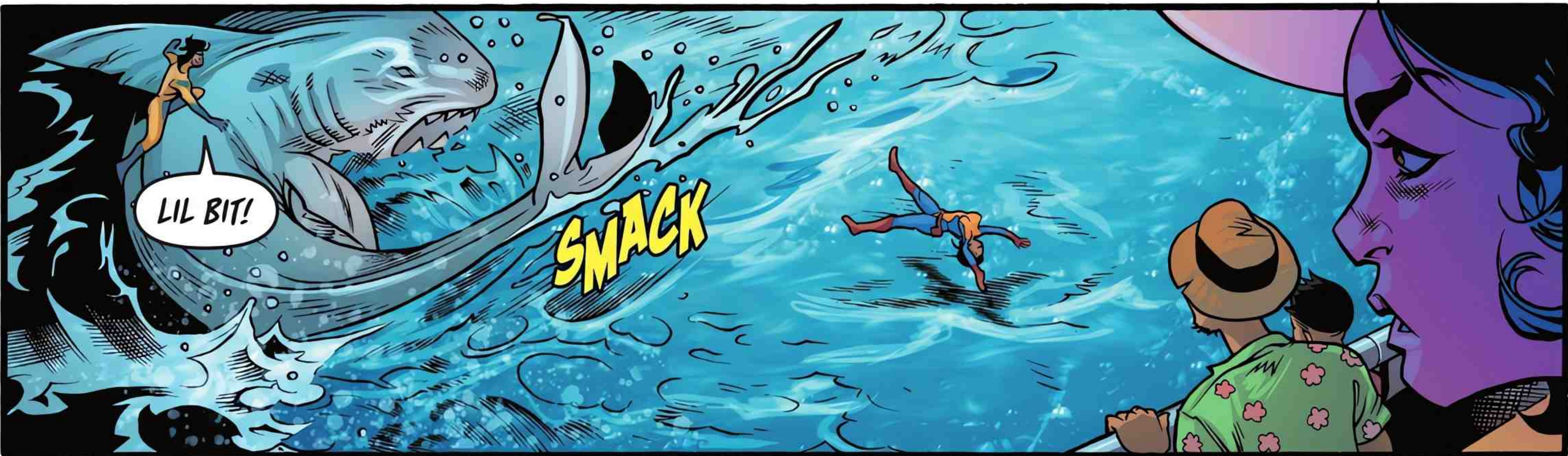


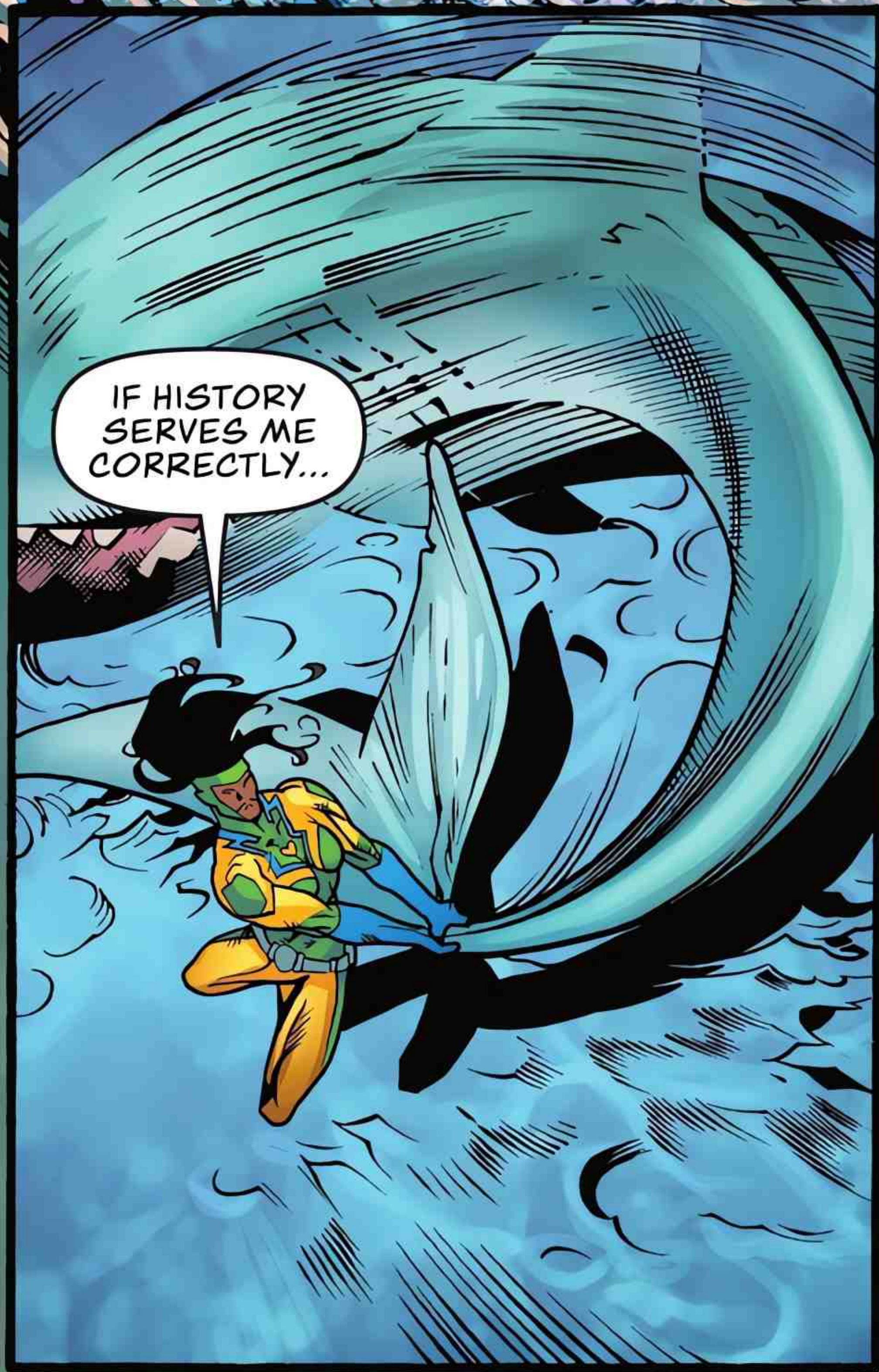


NOW
TURN THE MUSIC
BACK UP! AND
TURN THE GRILL
BACK ON!

UGH...!











READY?

ALWAYS.

KRAKK

TIME FOR A CLEANSE.

FWOOSH





NOW THAT EVERYONE'S HERE, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SETTING OFF THE CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT LED UP TO THIS.

I'M SORRY, AND I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO MAKE THINGS TIGHT. THE **RIGHT** WAY.

WHAT'D YOU DO?



HE TRAVELED BACK IN TIME.

MY SISTER CAN DO THAT TOO, USUALLY BY A COUPLE OF SECONDS TO HELP US OUT. BUT IT DOESN'T DO ALL OF THIS...

HE WENT BACK THIRTY YEARS...THEN SIX HUNDRED. **BIG** DIFFERENCE.

I CAN SPEAK FOR MYSELF. I GOT THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO WHAT WE **NEVER** GET TO DO.

TO MAKE MY DREAMS **COME TRUE**. BOTH FOR MYSELF, WHICH WAS PERSONAL, BUT ALSO FOR MY PEOPLE, IN PREVENTING SLAVERY.



YOOO, YOU STOPPED **SLAVERY** THOUGH?!

LIKE LIGHT WORK.

NAHH, THAT'S **HARD!**

THAT'S WHAT THE \$%%^ I'M TALKIN' ABOUT.



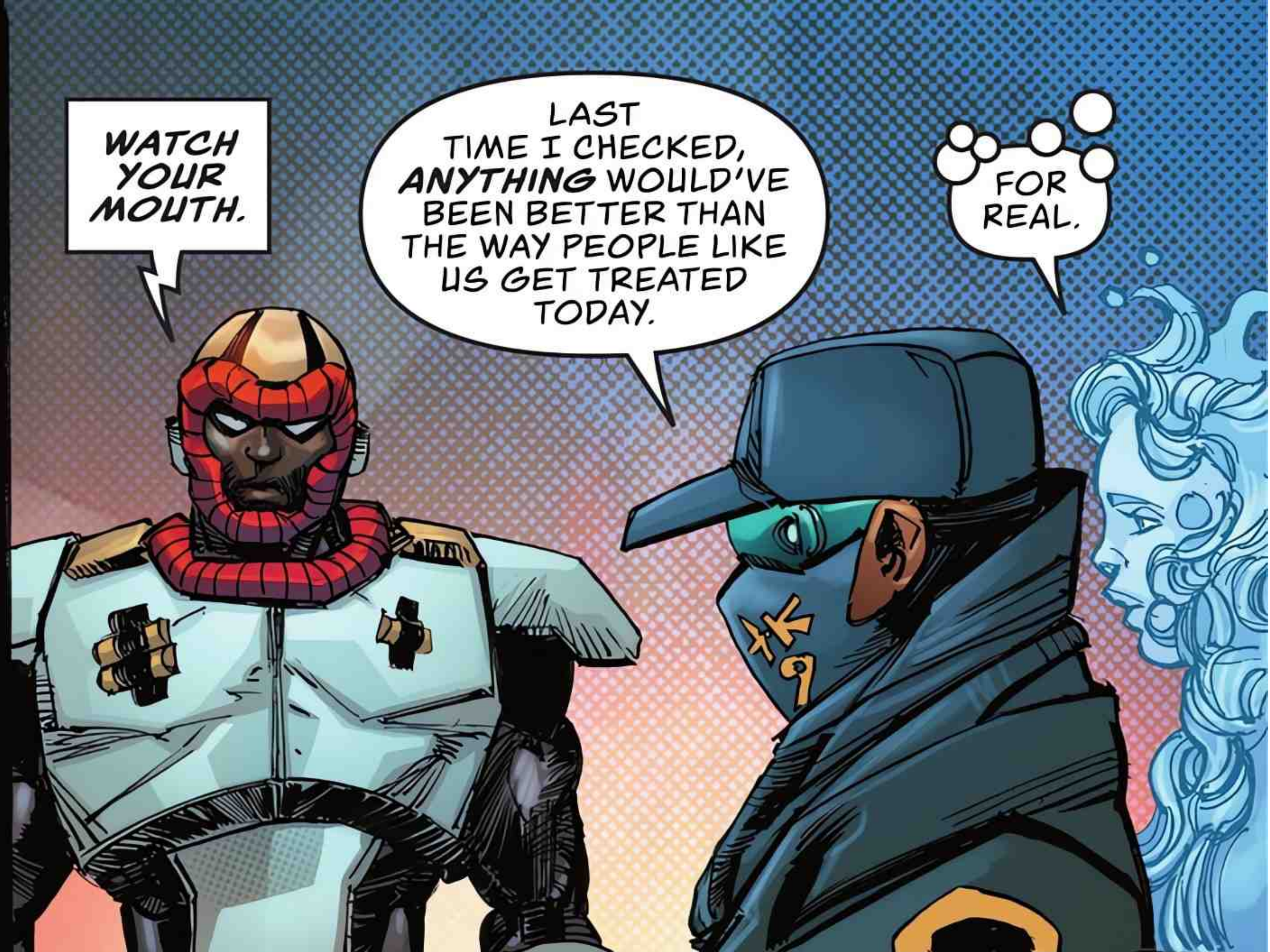
I GUESS SINCE THEY'RE TRYING TO **BAN** OUR HISTORY FROM SCHOOLS, WHY NOT CHANGE IT COMPLETELY?

LOOK AROUND YOU. THIS IS WHY.



NOW IMAGINE ME TRYING TO CONVINCE AN ALTERNATE-TIMELINE VERSION OF MYSELF NOT TO DO IT ANYMORE.

THAT'S WHY IT TOOK ME SO LONG TO GET BACK.





WHILE I UNDERSTAND THE IMPULSE, I LEARNED SOME HARD LESSONS THROUGHOUT MY JOURNEY.

LARGELY THAT WITH UNLIMITED POWER, IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT THE HUMAN CONDITION WILL TAKE OVER, AND YOU BECOME THE OPPRESSOR YOU HATED TO BEGIN WITH.

WHEN WE SPEAK OF EQUALITY, WHAT WE REALLY HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IS, DO WE WANT THE SAME UNCHECKED POWER THAT THEY GET TO LIVE WITH?

OR DO WE WANT THEM TO LIVE A LIFE WITH CONSTRAINTS LIKE WE DO?

THE TWO ARE *NOT* THE SAME.



NO!



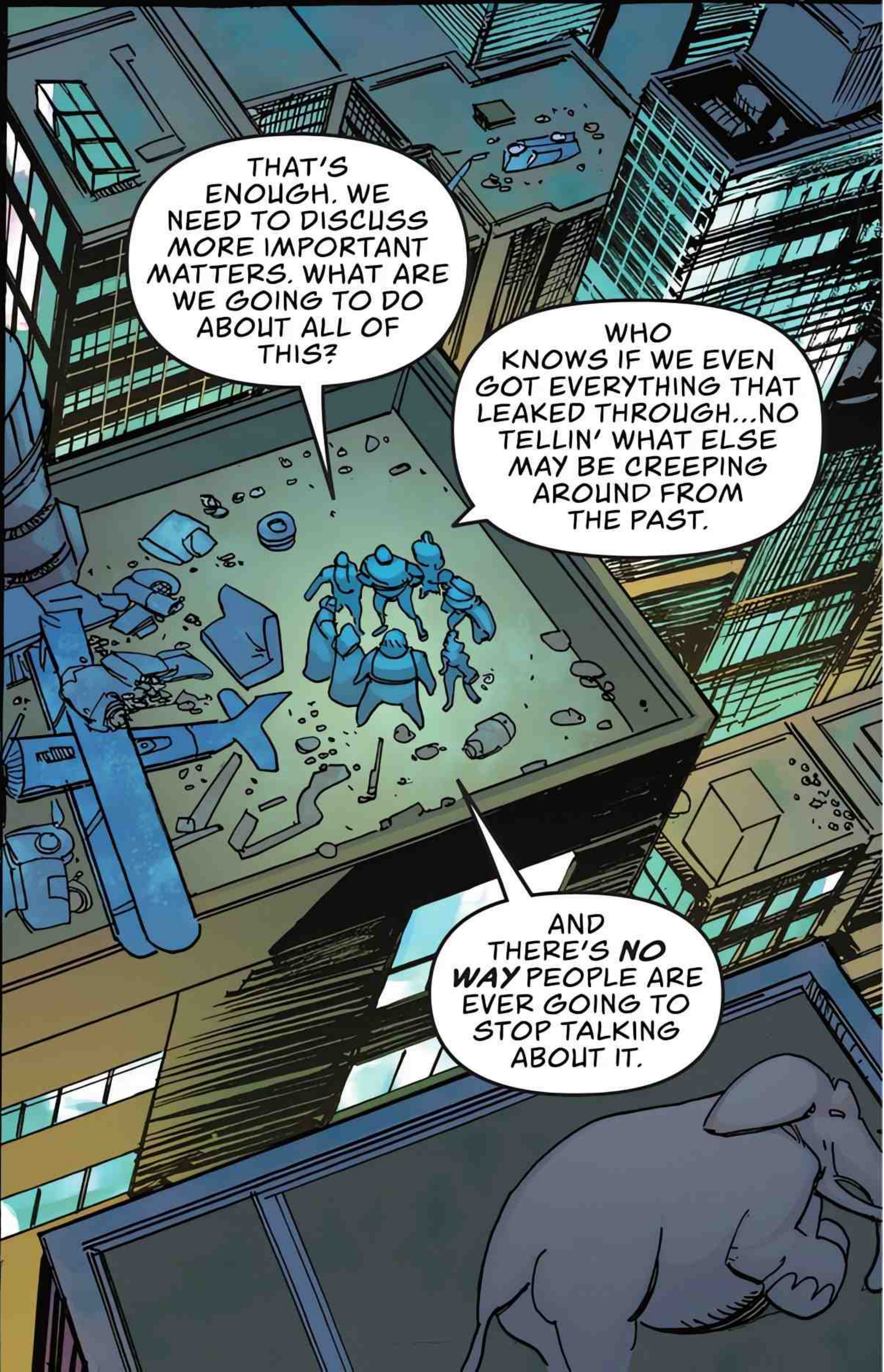
WELP. LOOKS LIKE WE'RE STUCK WITH THIS HARDWARE. I HOPE YOU'RE THE REAL ONE.

MAN, CALL THIS #\$\$%**@* SOFTWARE!

HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU'RE THE REAL ONE? THERE WAS NO *DÉJÀ VU* WHEN YOU CHANGED EVERYTHING BACK?

THE QUESTION ALONE MAKES MY HEAD HURT. STAY OUT OF GROWN FOLKS' BUSINESS.

I *KNOWWWW* YOU NOT TALKING WITH HOW CHILDISH *YOU'VE* BEEN ACTING.



THAT'S ENOUGH. WE NEED TO DISCUSS MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT ALL OF THIS?

WHO KNOWS IF WE EVEN GOT EVERYTHING THAT LEAKED THROUGH...NO TELLIN' WHAT ELSE MAY BE CREEPING AROUND FROM THE PAST.

AND THERE'S *NO WAY* PEOPLE ARE EVER GOING TO STOP TALKING ABOUT IT.

I'LL TELL THEM
THE TRUTH ABOUT
WHAT HAPPENED. I
WAS **FRAMED** FOR
THE BIG BANG, BUT
THIS TIME, IT'S
ALL ME.

WHATEVER
CONSEQUENCES
COME MY WAY,
I'LL STAND TEN
TOES DOWN--

Y'ALL HEAR
THAT?

SKREEEE--



--SHOOM



WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

I GOT A PICTURE FOR REVIEW.

LOOKS LIKE WE *DIDN'T* GET EVERYTHING. WE CAN USE MY SHIP TO GO AFTER IT. IT'S ON THE WAY NOW.

WHY DO YOU HAVE A JET WHEN YOU CAN ALREADY FLY?

WOE IS ME. HOW WILL I EVER BECOME A GREAT SUPERHERO WITH YOU TWO TO LOOK UP TO?

YOU COULD ALWAYS JUST FOLLOW MY LEAD.

FOR TIMES LIKE THESE, WHEN I'M TOO EXHAUSTED FROM CLEANING UP YOUR MESS.

COME CLEAN *ME* UP, THEN...



ROCKET, YOU'RE GOING BACK TO SWITZERLAND.

BUT *WHYYYYY?* THERE'S NO POINT IN EVEN BEING THERE IF I JUST HAVE TO KEEP LEAVING EVERY TIME SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENS!

NOT TO MENTION IT'S RUN BY A *SUPER-VILLAIN!* I HATE IT THERE!

WE'LL TAKE HER. LET US HANDLE THE CONVINCING. IT'S A GIRL THING.

...FINE. HARDWARE, LET'S GO.



WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF US?

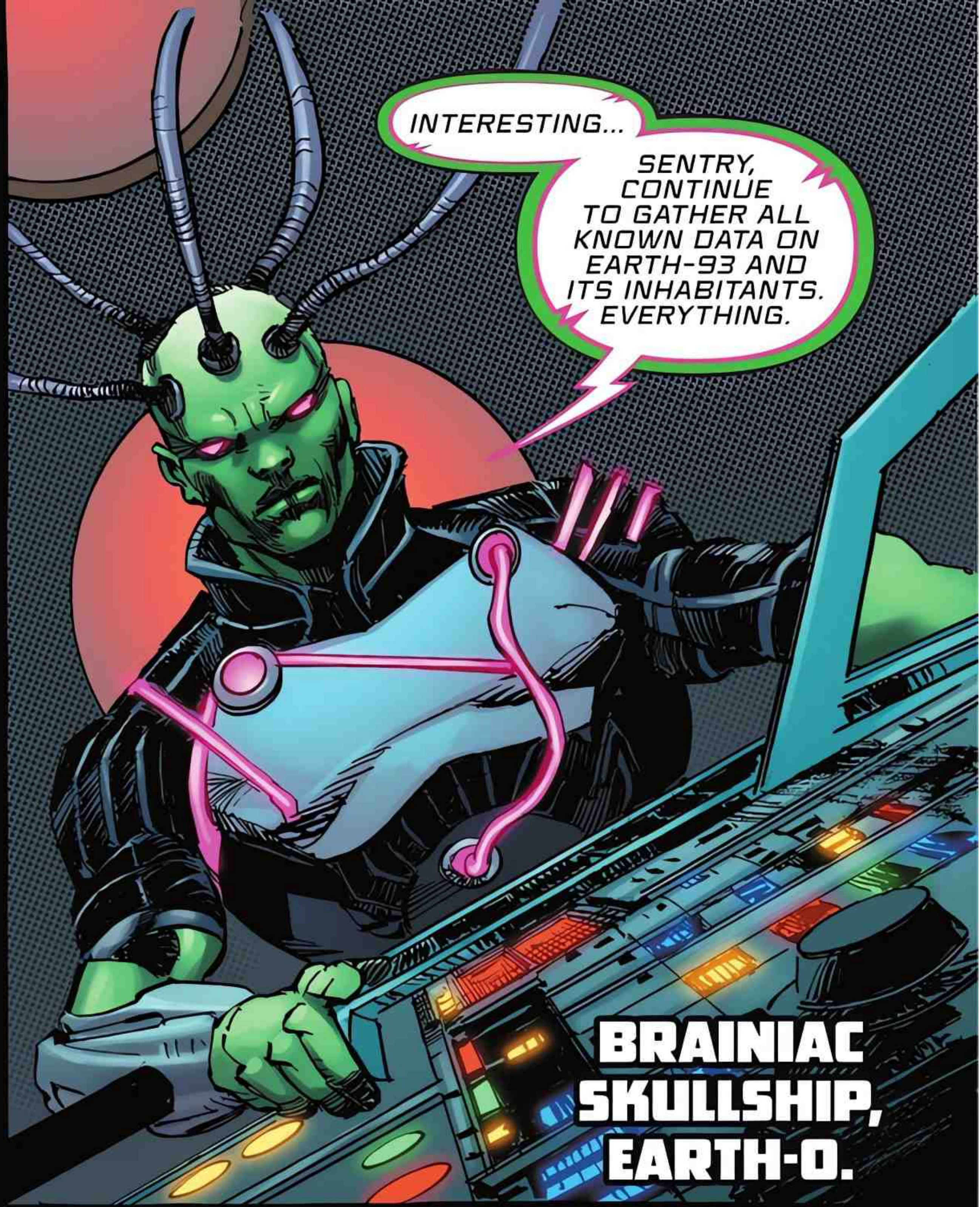
YOU'RE ON CLEANUP DUTY.

£#\$@ THAT!



SURVEY OF SMALLVILLE, KANSAS, EARTH-93, COMPLETE. CONFIRMED: THE KAL-EL OF THIS WORLD IS DECEASED, ELIMINATED IN INFANCY BY ALIEN SPECIES OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN. NO REMAINING KRYPTONIAN LIFE-SIGNS DETECTED IN THIS UNIVERSE.

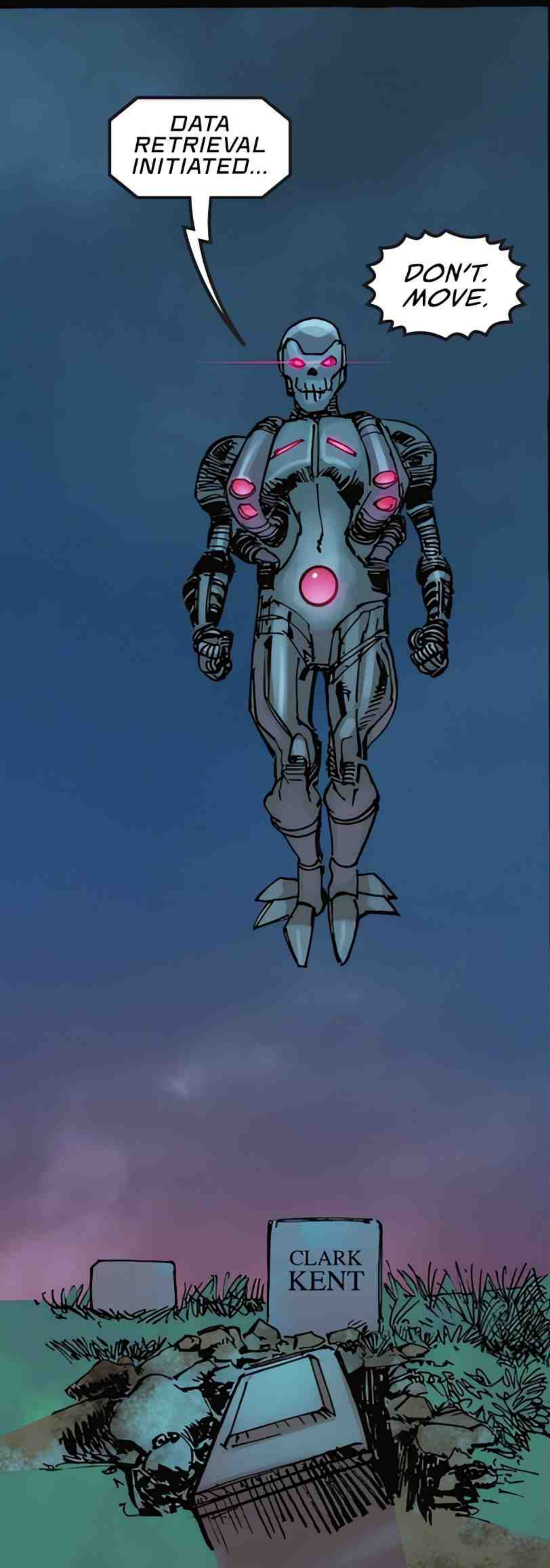
CLARK KENT



INTERESTING...

SENTRY, CONTINUE TO GATHER ALL KNOWN DATA ON EARTH-93 AND ITS INHABITANTS. EVERYTHING.

**BRAINIAC
SKULLSHIP,
EARTH-O.**



DATA RETRIEVAL INITIATED...

DON'T. MOVE.

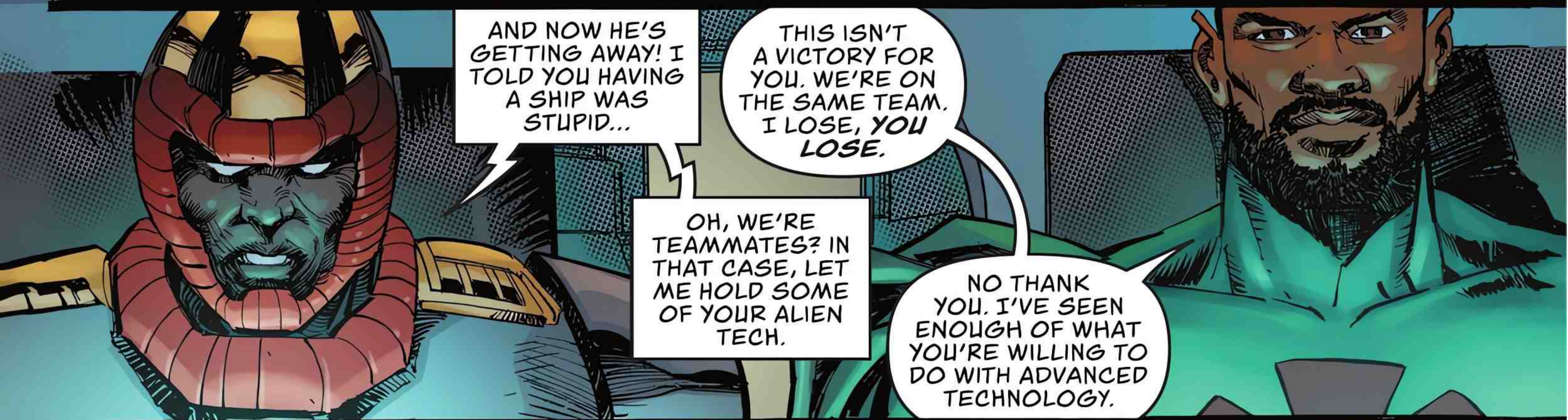
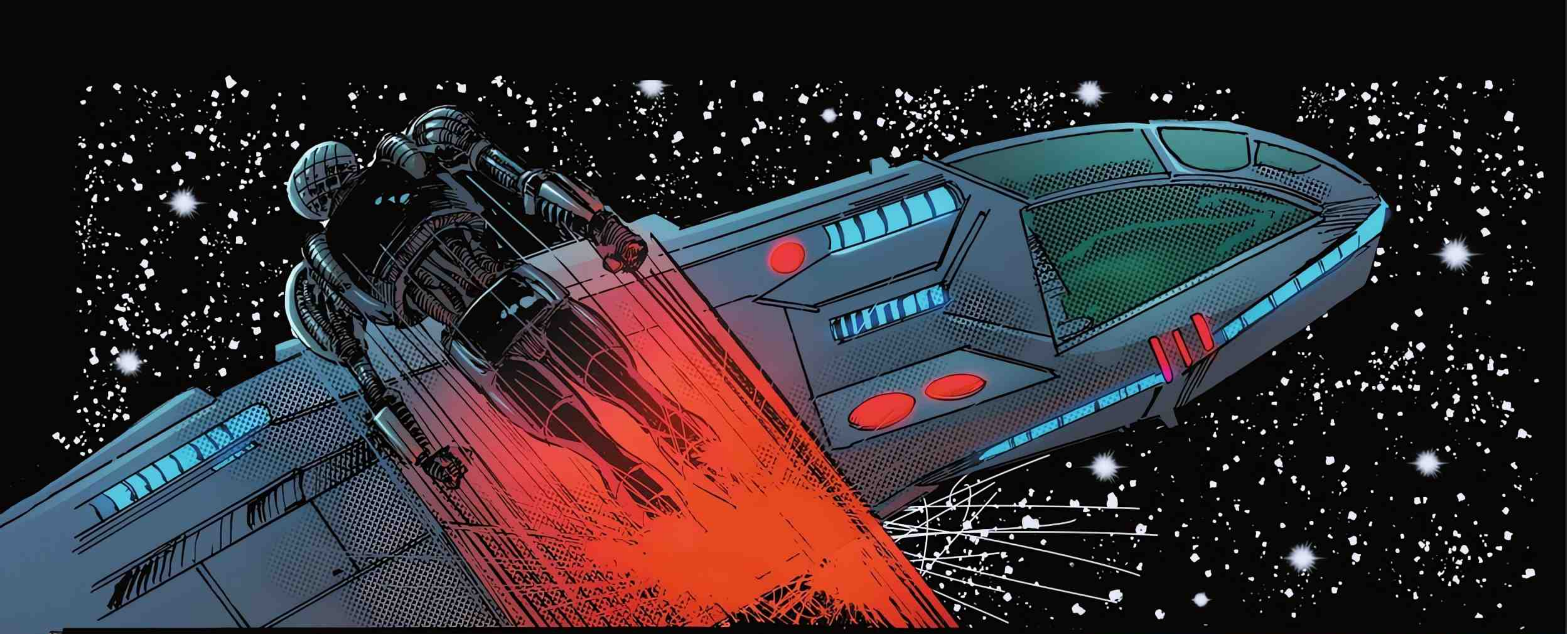
CLARK KENT



HOSTILES DETECTED.



SOMEHOW, SOMEWAY... HE'S HACKED THIS ENTIRE THING. IT'S ALL BEING DISABLED.

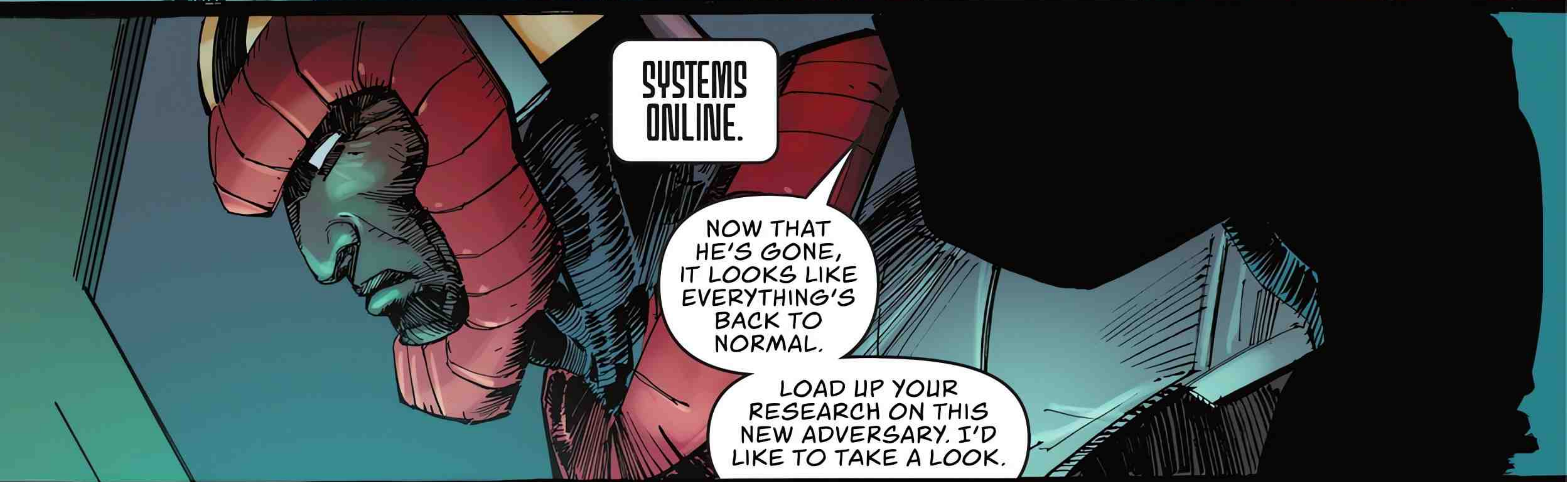


AND NOW HE'S
GETTING AWAY! I
TOLD YOU HAVING
A SHIP WAS
STUPID...

THIS ISN'T
A VICTORY FOR
YOU. WE'RE ON
THE SAME TEAM.
I LOSE, *YOU*
LOSE.

OH, WE'RE
TEAMMATES? IN
THAT CASE, LET
ME HOLD SOME
OF YOUR ALIEN
TECH.

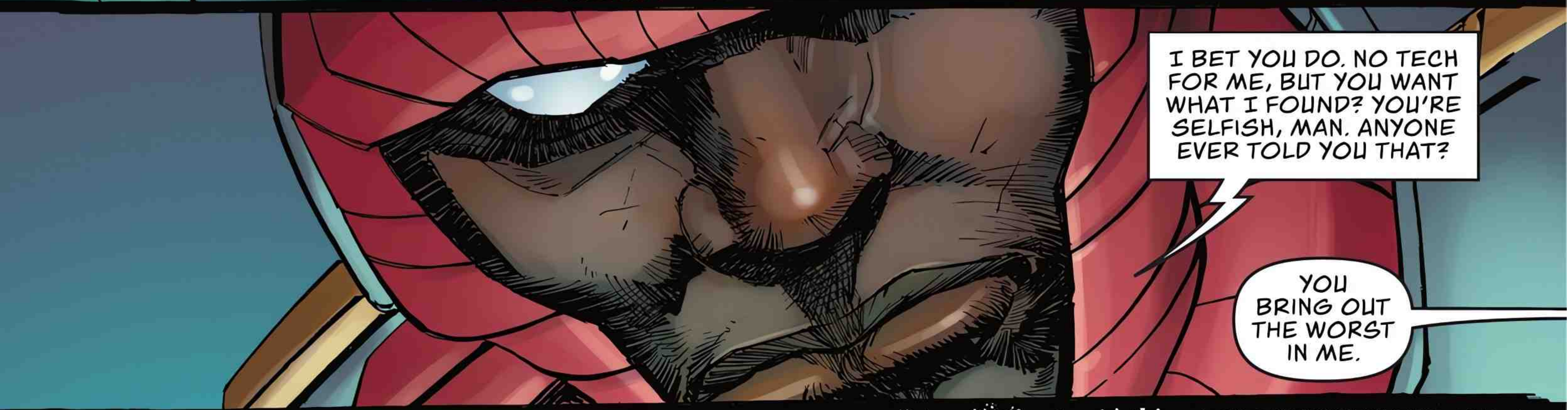
NO THANK
YOU. I'VE SEEN
ENOUGH OF WHAT
YOU'RE WILLING TO
DO WITH ADVANCED
TECHNOLOGY.



SYSTEMS
ONLINE.

NOW THAT
HE'S GONE,
IT LOOKS LIKE
EVERYTHING'S
BACK TO
NORMAL.

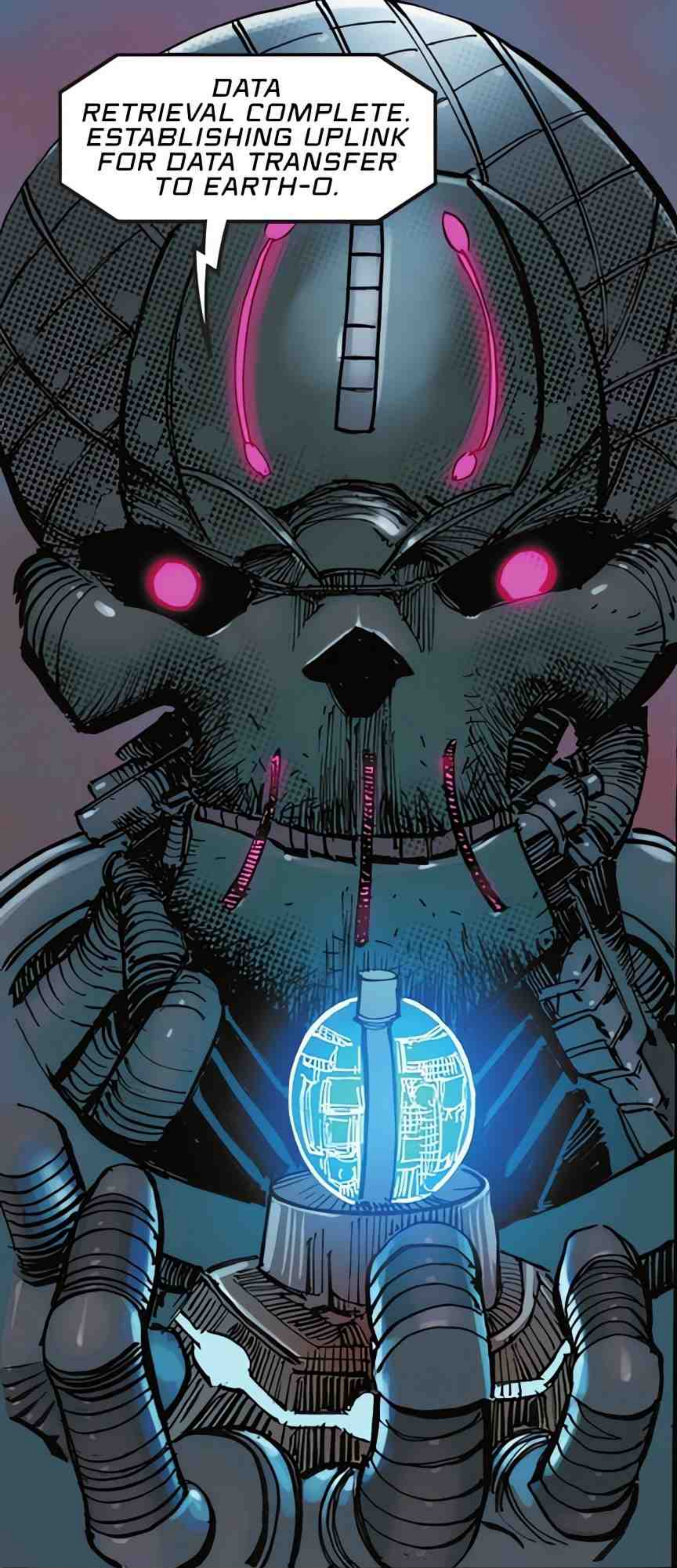
LOAD UP YOUR
RESEARCH ON THIS
NEW ADVERSARY. I'D
LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK.



I BET YOU DO. NO TECH
FOR ME, BUT YOU WANT
WHAT I FOUND? YOU'RE
SELFISH, MAN. ANYONE
EVER TOLD YOU THAT?

YOU
BRING OUT
THE WORST
IN ME.

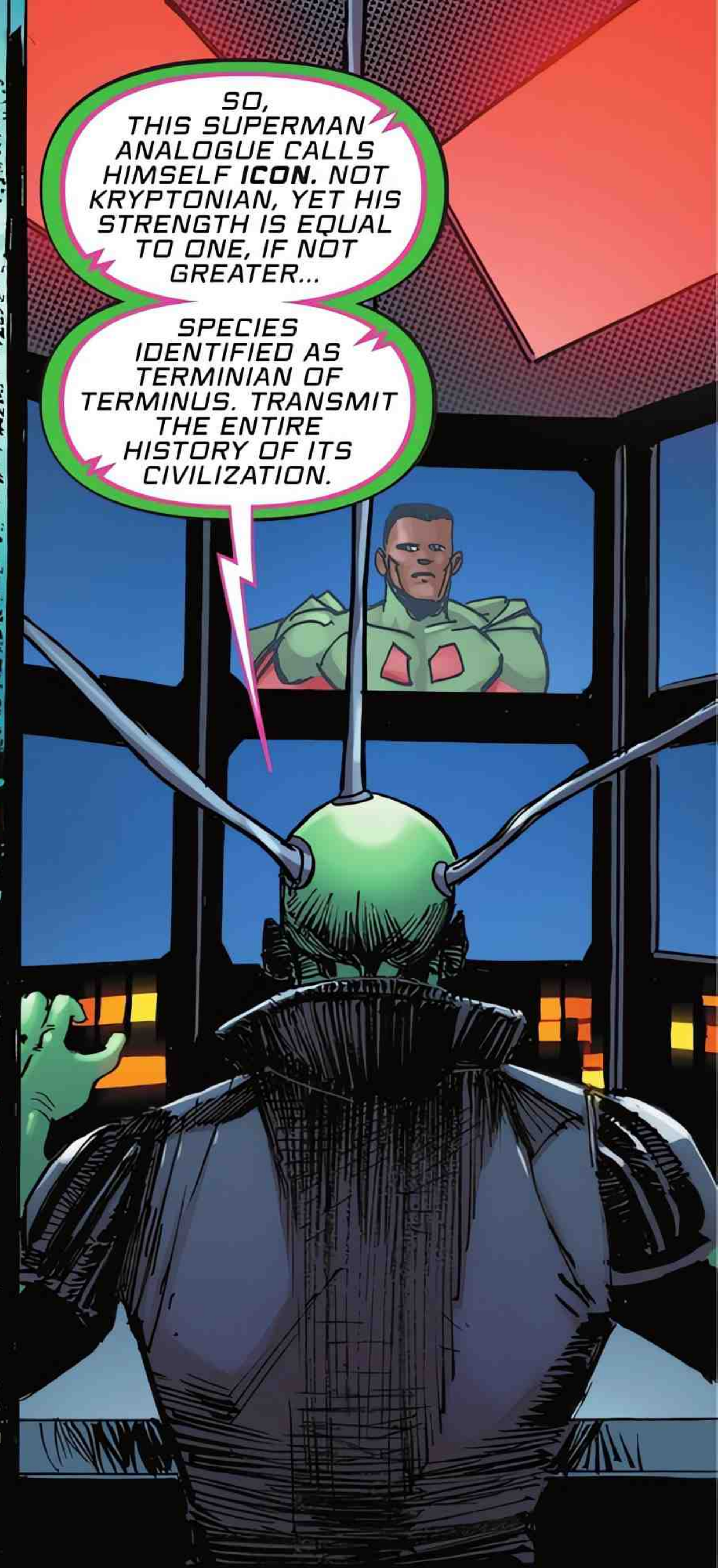




DATA
RETRIEVAL COMPLETE.
ESTABLISHING UPLINK
FOR DATA TRANSFER
TO EARTH-O.



DATA
TRANSFER
INITIATED.



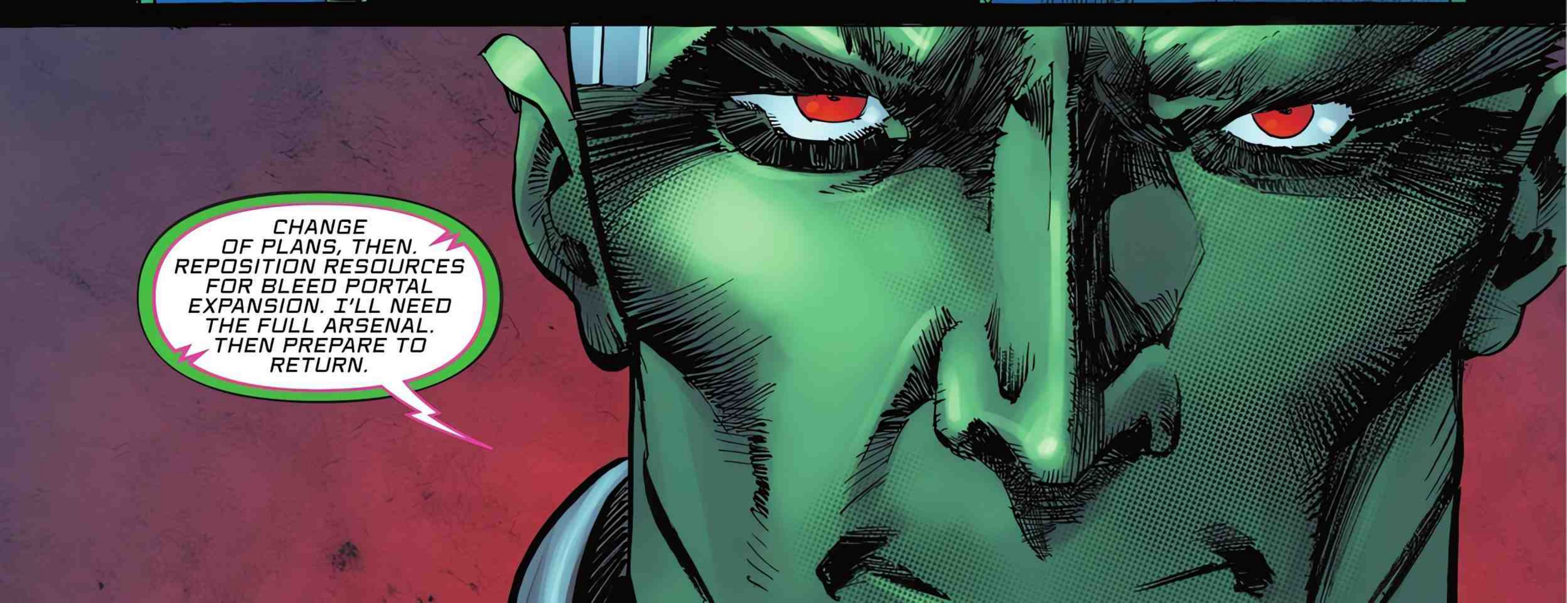
SO,
THIS SUPERMAN
ANALOGUE CALLS
HIMSELF **ICON**. NOT
KRYPTONIAN, YET HIS
STRENGTH IS EQUAL
TO ONE, IF NOT
GREATER...

SPECIES
IDENTIFIED AS
TERMINIAN OF
TERMINUS. TRANSMIT
THE ENTIRE
HISTORY OF ITS
CIVILIZATION.

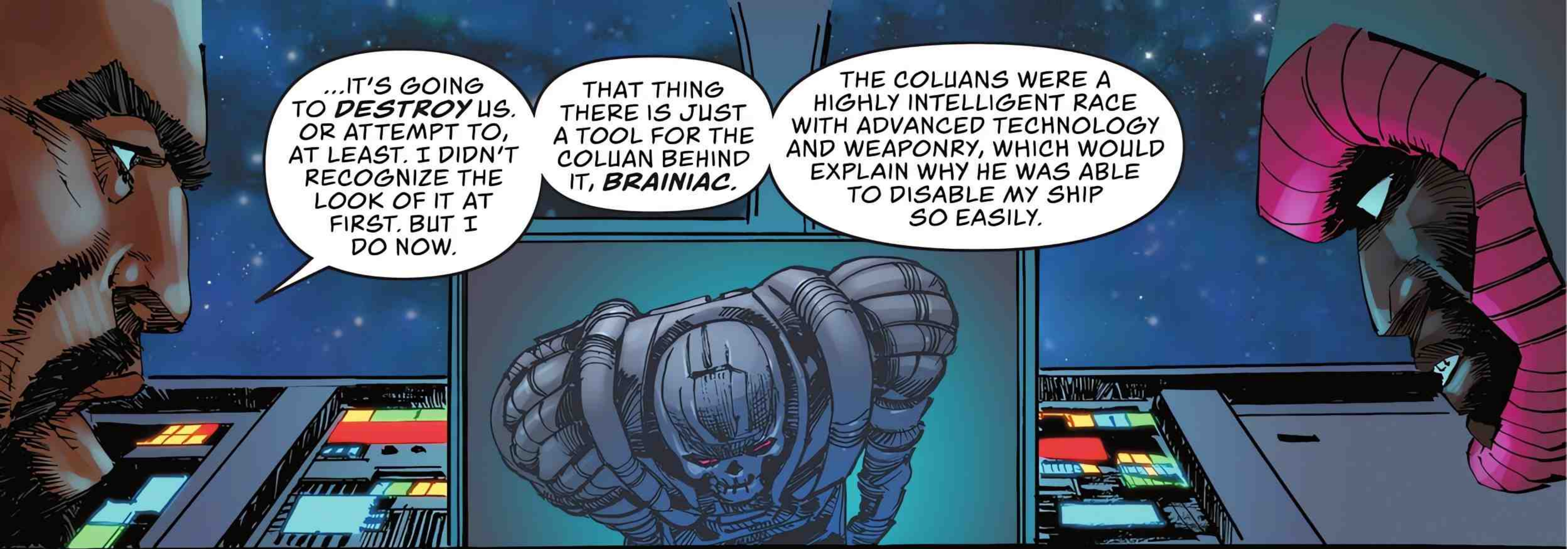


TERMINUS IS A PART
OF THE COOPERATIVE, A HIGHLY
ADVANCED INTERSTELLAR COUNCIL
MADE UP OF MEMBERS FROM
THE MANY PLANETS ACROSS THE
MILKY WAY GALAXY, SHARING
KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE
WITH ONE ANOTHER.

CENTURIES
AGO THE COOPERATIVE
WAGED WAR AGAINST
COLU, RESULTING IN THE
EXTINCTION OF THE COLUAN
RACE. THE **BRAINIAC** OF
THIS UNIVERSE DIED
IN THE CONFLICT.



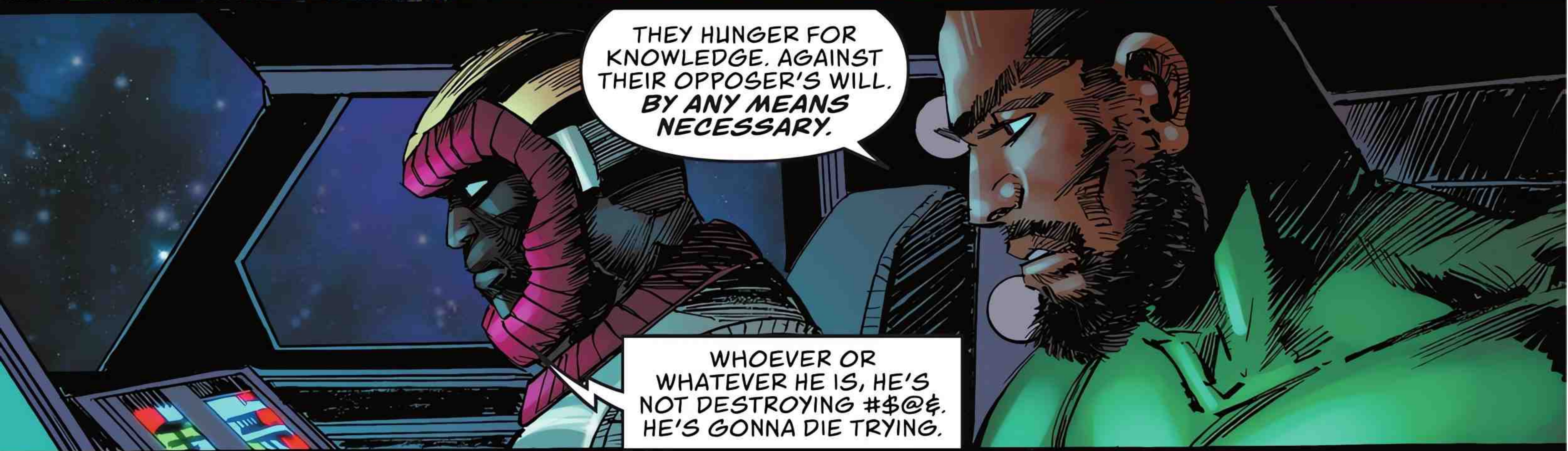
CHANGE
OF PLANS, THEN.
REPOSITION RESOURCES
FOR BLEED PORTAL
EXPANSION. I'LL NEED
THE FULL ARSENAL.
THEN PREPARE TO
RETURN.



...IT'S GOING TO **DESTROY** US. OR AT LEAST, I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE THE LOOK OF IT AT FIRST. BUT I DO NOW.

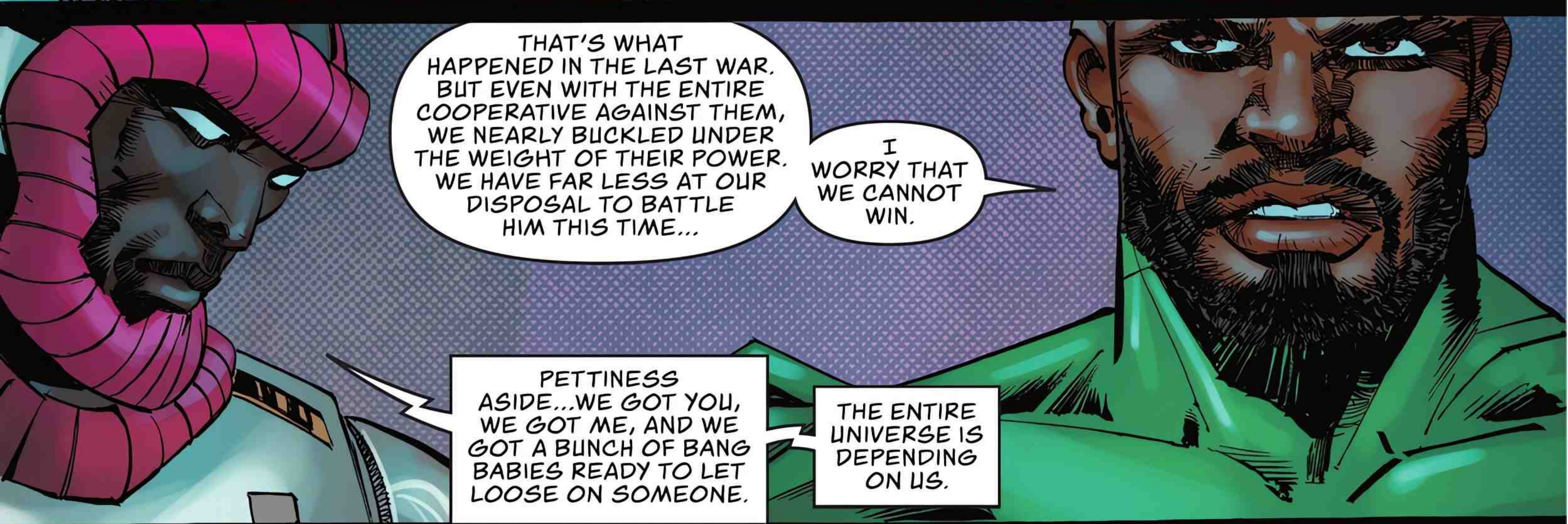
THAT THING THERE IS JUST A TOOL FOR THE COLUAN BEHIND IT, **BRAINIAC**.

THE COLUANS WERE A HIGHLY INTELLIGENT RACE WITH ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND WEAPONRY, WHICH WOULD EXPLAIN WHY HE WAS ABLE TO DISABLE MY SHIP SO EASILY.



THEY HUNGER FOR KNOWLEDGE. AGAINST THEIR OPPOSER'S WILL. **BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.**

WHOEVER OR WHATEVER HE IS, HE'S NOT DESTROYING #\$. HE'S GONNA DIE TRYING.

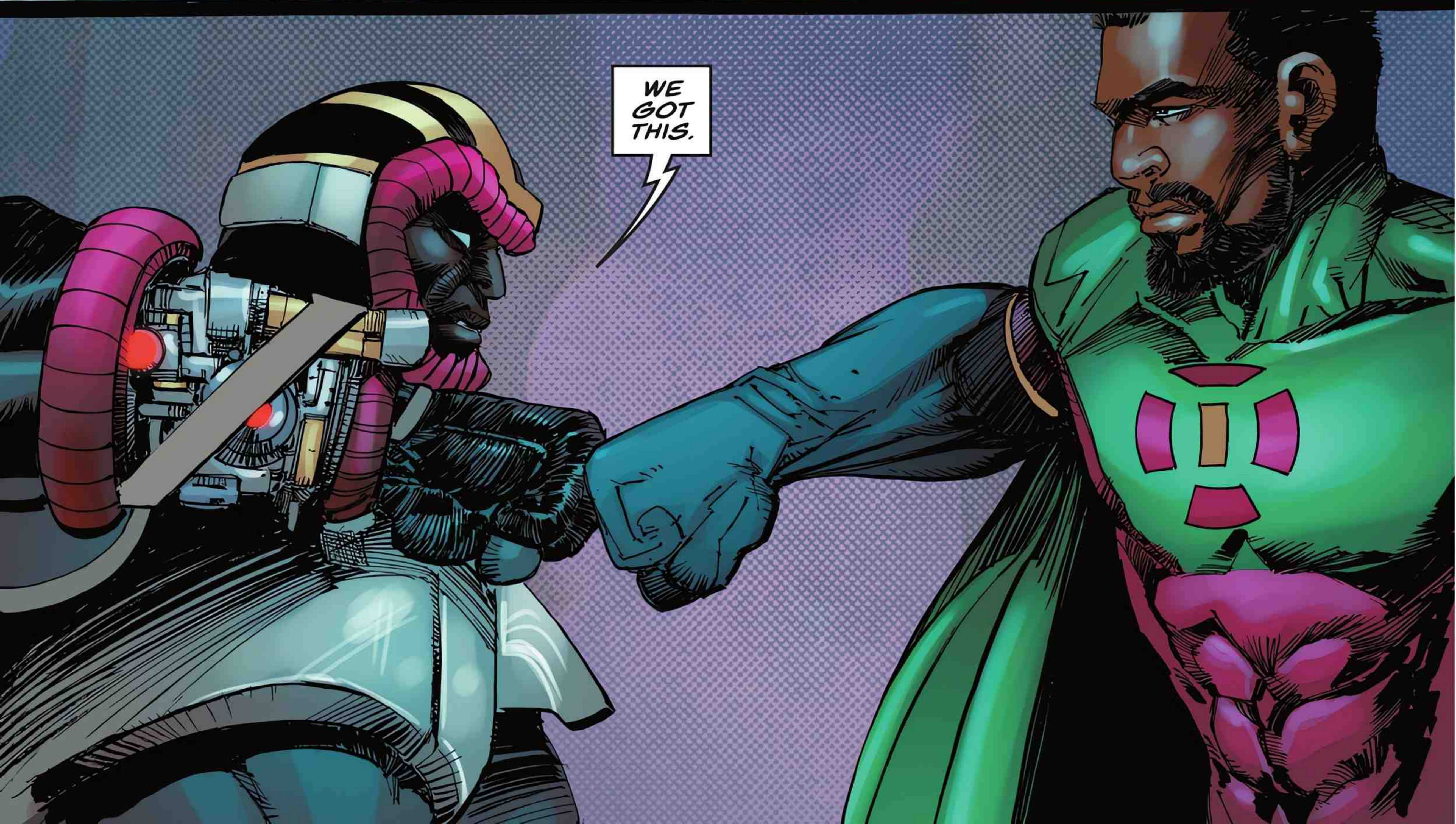


THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED IN THE LAST WAR. BUT EVEN WITH THE ENTIRE COOPERATIVE AGAINST THEM, WE NEARLY BUCKLED UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THEIR POWER. WE HAVE FAR LESS AT OUR DISPOSAL TO BATTLE HIM THIS TIME...

I WORRY THAT WE CANNOT WIN.

PETTINESS ASIDE...WE GOT YOU, WE GOT ME, AND WE GOT A BUNCH OF BANG BABIES READY TO LET LOOSE ON SOMEONE.

THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE IS DEPENDING ON US.



WE GOT THIS.

SWITZERLAND.

ROCKET, THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU. I'VE TRIED TALKING ABOUT IT WITH ICON, BUT HE WON'T LISTEN.

SHOCKING.

LIL BIT AND I, WE'RE PART OF A GROUP OF SUPER-POWERED WOMEN CALLED THE LOVE CORPS. WE'D LOVE FOR YOU TO JOIN US.

WAIT, WHAT?

AFTER SEEING ICON AND HARDWARE GO BACK AND FORTH, I KNOW WE CAN SET A BETTER EXAMPLE FOR YOU THAN HE CAN.

AND THIS SCHOOL? YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO GO IF YOU DIDN'T WANT TO. WE'RE NOT HERE TO BE YOUR PARENTS. WE'RE HERE TO **EMPOWER** YOU TO MAKE THE BEST DECISIONS FOR YOURSELF.

THAT **SOUNDS** AMAZING. BUT IT WOULD MEAN...IT WOULD MEAN THERE'D BE NO MORE ICON AND ROCKET, RIGHT?

LIKE... WE WOULDN'T BE A TEAM ANYMORE?

THAT'S CORRECT. YOU'D GRADUATE, IF YOU WILL. **THINK ABOUT IT.**

WHAT THE--



ICON VS. HARDWARE

ROUND FOUR

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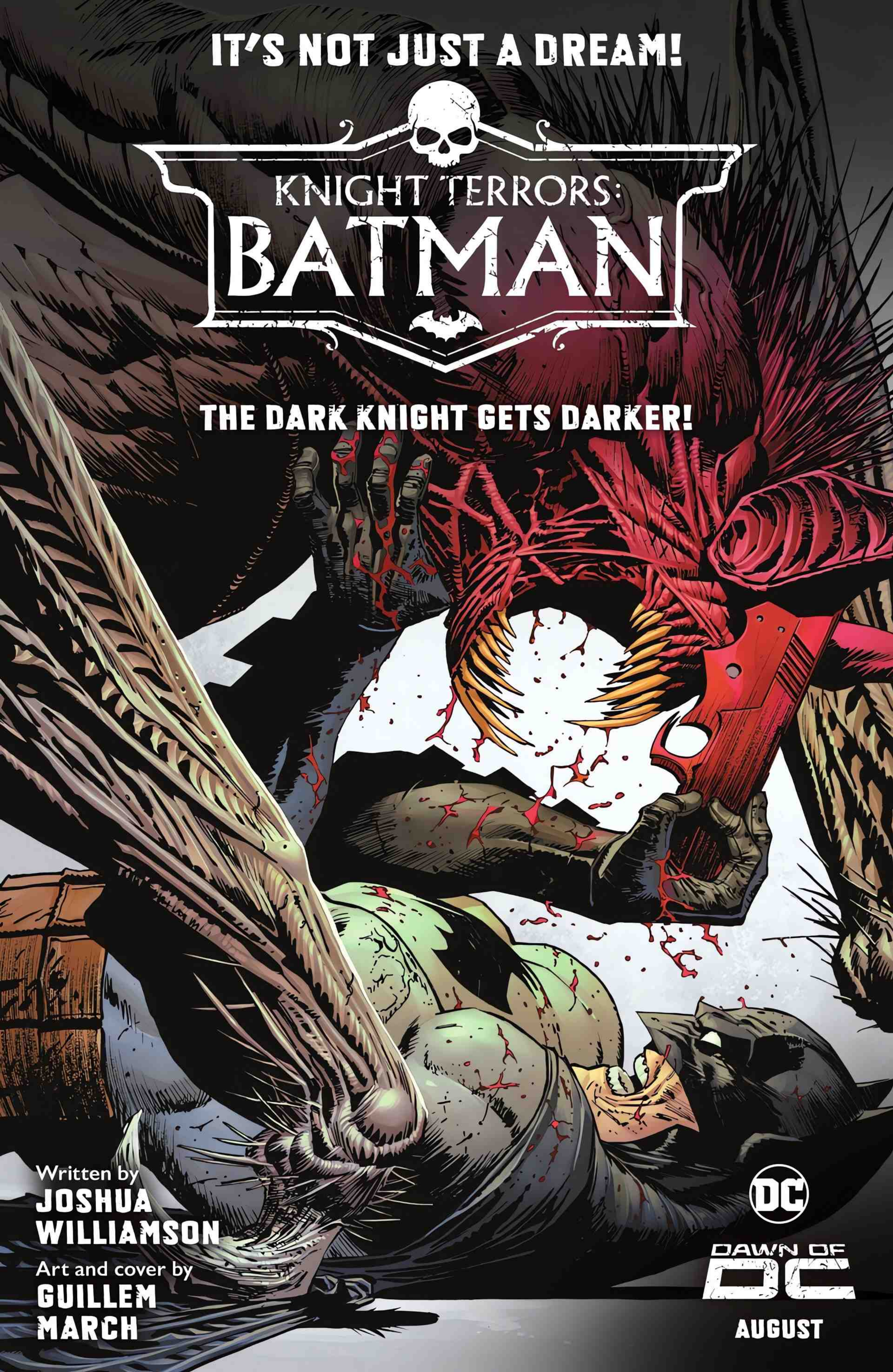
IT'S NOT JUST A DREAM!



KNIGHT TERRORS:
BATMAN



THE DARK KNIGHT GETS DARKER!



Written by
JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
Art and cover by
GUILLEM MARCH



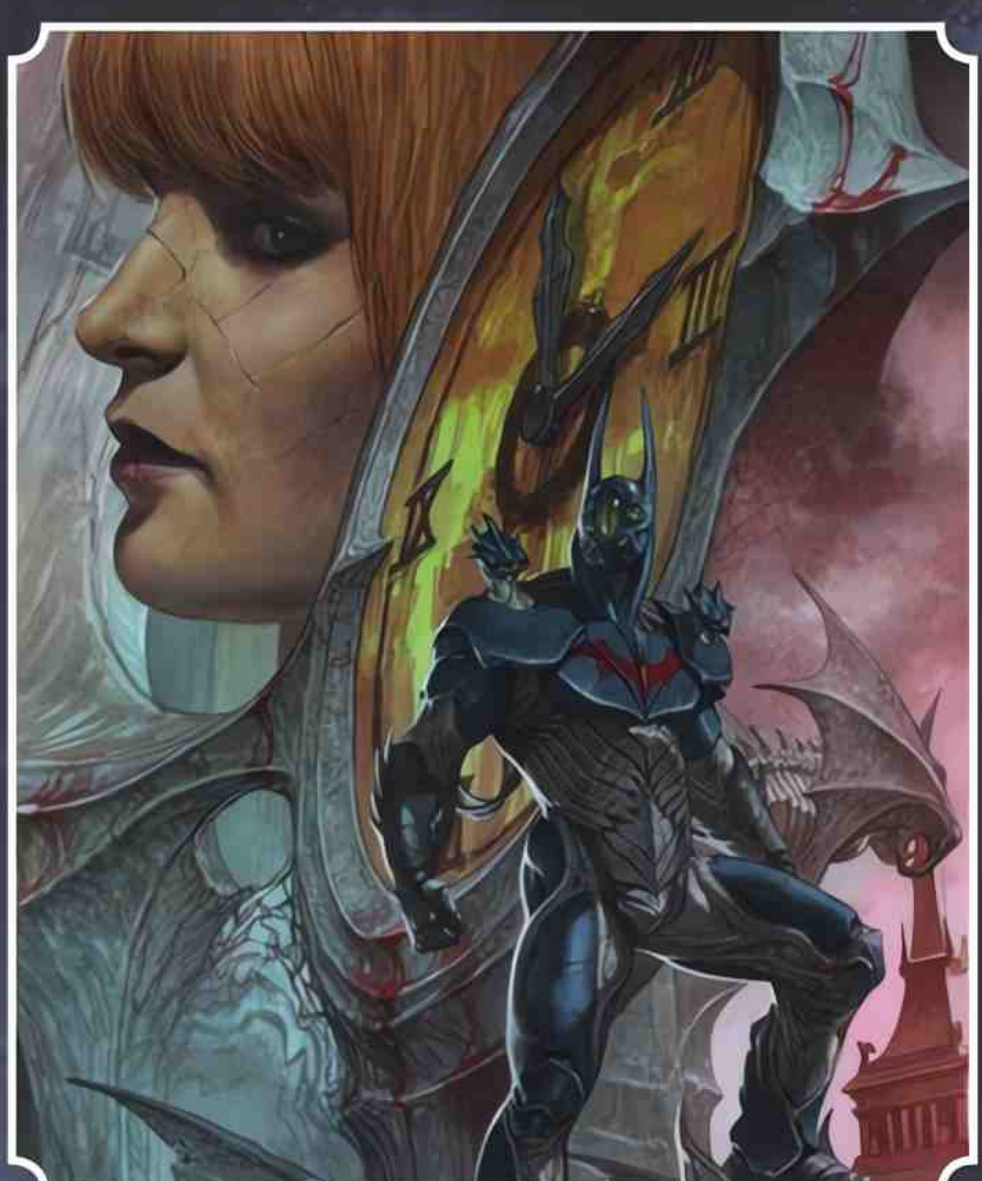
DAWN OF
DC
AUGUST



KNIGHT TERRORS:
DETECTIVE COMICS

**WAKE UP,
JIM GORDON!**

Written by
DAN WATTERS
Art and cover by
RICCARDO FEDERICI





KNIGHT TERRORS:
NIGHTWING

**NIGHTWING'S NIGHTMARE
CONTINUES!**





KNIGHT TERRORS:
ROBIN

**LOST IN THEIR
OWN PERSONAL HELLS!**



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IVAN REIS

ANGEL MANUEL SOTO

DIRECTOR OF

Blue Beetle



Can you share your journey to becoming director of *Blue Beetle*?

My journey started during the pandemic. I got a call from DC mentioning their interest in producing *Blue Beetle*, and I found myself very impressed with the origin story of this character. I thought it was interesting to do something focused on a kid that looks like me, that speaks like me, that comes from a family very close to mine.

It felt very refreshing to me, so I accepted the challenge, and here we are now.

What's your take on Jaime Reyes as a main character?

Jaime is more than just a relatable character. He's a kid that believed in an idea of progress and is playing by the rules and staying in his lane—and realizes that a lot of things are not like people said they would be.

Life often brings surprises, and to people like him, it's not as easy as go to college, come back, and make a career. He faces that reality of having to deal with existential issues, both within his family and within himself, and navigating the life of a college graduate. We see him encounter this mysterious scarab that chooses him—adding a layer of more problems to his life, not knowing that maybe this is his destiny. And now we go on the journey with him, and now he's going to become the hero we were all waiting for.

Let's go back to the scarab—can you tell us a little more?

The scarab is technology made by a colonizing alien race that was sent throughout the cosmos to land in different places and attach to its host, then dominate that host, before exploiting and obliterating the planet.

But this scarab is not like the others. The host has the capacity to communicate with the scarab and have a symbiotic connection. And this is where it gets exciting between them, and creates an interesting dynamic as a weapon of mass destruction learns how to be a nice person.



IN THEATERS AUGUST 18!

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